

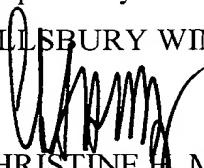
REMARKS

Consideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested. By this Amendment, claims 1-17 are amended to merely clarify the recited subject matter of the disclosed invention. Additionally, new claims 18-19 are added to more fully recite the claimed invention. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment, as new claims 18-19 are fully supported by the unamended claims and specification.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP



CHRISTINE H. MCCARTHY
Reg. No. 41844
Tel. No. (703) 905-2143
Fax. No. (703) 905-2500

Date: December 22, 2004
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000